

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.63332/joph.v5i3.717>

## Cultural Capital Information Management and Sustainability in the Context of Thailand Local Government Organizations

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### Abstract

*Cultural capital information management plays a vital role in supporting sustainable development in several ways. The research aims to study cultural capital information management to promote sustainable development within the scope of the Local Administration Organizations (LAOs)' roles and responsibilities. Qualitative research methods are employed to obtain data from individuals involved in managing and practicing cultural aspects of the community. The researchers chose the province of Roi Et as the study area because it is historically significant with ancient communities deeply rooted in cultural heritage. The main data providers for this research included cultural administrators and practitioners working in LAOs, a total of 15 individuals selected according to the criteria. Data collection involved in-depth interviews and document content analysis. The findings are presented on three main points: (1) the roles and responsibilities of LAOs in cultural capital; (2) cultural capital information management by the LAOs; and (3) cultural capital information management in the aspects of sustainable development including education and learning, community engagement, and cultural heritage conservation. Understanding the context of LAOs in cultural information management linked to sustainable development is valuable for academics, researchers in library and information science, and practitioners involved in LAOs. It also provides insights for designing and developing community information systems for sustainable cultural capital management.*

**Keywords:** Cultural Capital, Cultural Heritage, Information Management, Local Administration, Sustainable Development

### Introduction

Cultural capital is important for the development of various aspects of localities, including economic, social, and natural resource and environmental development. The benefits of cultural capital to the locality are both direct and indirect. Direct benefits include fostering creativity in local products and services, organizing social structures within the community, and sustainable management of natural resources and the environment. Cultural capital also contributes to the development of cultural tourism businesses within communities and addressing community development and issues. Indirect benefits include the collection and transmission of local knowledge, community participation in community development activities using cultural capital, reflecting the unique identity of each locality, application in educational management, and the transmission and dissemination of local knowledge (Pinkaw, 2011; Tahom et al., 2015).

The Thai government places importance on the continuous development of cultural capital. In the National Strategy for 20 Years (B.E. 2561-2580), under the strategic issue of enhancing competitiveness, there are development objectives aimed at elevating the country's potential in

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various dimensions. These objectives are based on three main principles: Building on the past - By leveraging the strengths of identity, culture, traditions, lifestyles, and various natural resources and applying technology to align with the modern economy; Adapting to the present - By developing the country's infrastructure in various areas such as transportation systems, scientific infrastructure, technology, and digitalization to prepare for future development; and Creating new value for the future - By enhancing the capabilities of entrepreneurs and the younger generation and adapting business models to meet future market demands (National Strategy Secretariat Office, 2018).

The cultural affairs in Thailand are overseen by the Ministry of Culture, responsible for the areas of culture, language, religion, and traditions. The ministry is divided into sub-agencies to carry out tasks related to cultural work in various aspects. For instance, the Department of Fine Arts is tasked with protecting, preserving, restoring, promoting, creating, disseminating, researching, and developing the artistic and cultural heritage of the nation to uphold its values and identity. Similarly, the Department of Cultural Promotion focuses on promoting, preserving, and nurturing Thai culture through research, restoration, development, dissemination, and promotion, working with both government and private organizations involved in cultural activities (Ministry of Culture, 2023a).

At the local level, the Local Administrative Organizations (LAOs) play a crucial role. These are governmental bodies closely connected to their respective regions, responsible for preserving local arts, customs, indigenous wisdom, and local cultures. They collaborate with public services to meet local needs and address community issues. The operations involve creating networks of cooperation with various government and private entities at different levels, such as village and district networks, community leaders, schools, local educational institutions, provincial cultural councils, tourism and sports offices, provincial administrative organizations, community development offices, and provincial agricultural offices. At the national level, collaboration extends to agencies like the Department of Fine Arts and the Ministry of Culture (Department of Local Administration, 2015).

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2550, Section 14, regarding local administration, stipulates that the state must grant autonomy to LAOs based on the principles of self-governance according to the aspirations of the local population. The state also promotes LAOs as the primary organizations for public service delivery and involvement in decision-making regarding local issues within their jurisdictions (Article 281). LAOs are tasked with overseeing and providing public services, having autonomy in policy formulation, administration, public service delivery, personnel management, finance, and treasury, with due consideration for provincial and national development (Article 283). Additionally, they have responsibilities for preserving local arts, traditions, indigenous wisdom, or culture, managing education, training, and professional development as appropriate (Article 289), and promoting and maintaining environmental quality (Article 290) (Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2550, 2007).

Currently, research studies various dimensions of cultural capital management, such as its role in income generation, economic development, tourism, and sustainable development. Cultural capital is relevant to sustainable development directly and indirectly, as it supports sustainable development factors. For instance, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning opportunities (SDGs 4.7), fostering sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all by

designing and implementing policies to promote sustainable tourism, creating jobs, and promoting culture and local products by 2030 (SDGs 8.9), and making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable by strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage by 2030 (SDGs 11.4) (Petti et al., 2020; Xiao et al., 2018). It is evident that driving sustainable development goals through cultural dimensions yields various benefits, including participation, education, and conservation.

Research related to cultural information management in Thailand, published in journals and conference proceedings both domestically and internationally, reveals that most studies focus on applying knowledge organization concepts to manage cultural knowledge. This includes developing metadata, building vocabulary repositories and knowledge structures, and creating systems or platforms for knowledge management. The literature review section indicates efforts to develop tools and systems for collecting, storing, accessing, and disseminating cultural heritage, particularly digital information and knowledge, using modern technologies. Research on cultural capital covers tangible cultural heritage such as buildings, monuments, and artifacts, as well as intangible cultural heritage like folk tales, traditional music, and various art forms, all aimed at conservation, educational purposes, and potential applications in other development areas.

However, research studying the context of local organizations linked to cultural information management and publication is not yet clear. Given that cultural capital in Thailand is rooted in and localized, as stipulated by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2550, which mandates that LAOs have responsibilities for preserving local arts, traditions, indigenous wisdom, or culture, it can be argued that managing cultural information is a critical task to efficiently collect, store, preserve, disseminate, and utilize cultural assets for sustainable development. Understanding the context of LAOs in cultural information management linked to sustainable development goals related to cultural heritage is valuable for academics, researchers in library and information science, and practitioners involved in LAOs. Therefore, this study examines the context of LAOs in managing cultural capital information to promote sustainable development, focusing on specific aspects in the Roi Et province, which encompasses various types of cultural capital within the framework studied. The research aims to study cultural capital information management to promote sustainable development within the scope of LAOs' roles and responsibilities in cultural capital management at the local level, providing insights for designing and developing community information systems for sustainable cultural capital management.

## **Literature Review**

The researchers have defined the conceptual framework for research based on theoretical concepts and related studies, including (1) cultural capital, (2) local government organizations, (3) cultural information management, and (4) sustainable development related to cultural capital management. The details are as follows:

### **Cultural Capital**

Bourdieu (1986), a French sociologist, defines cultural capital as the accumulation within individuals, objects, things, and institutional forms, each of which has been shaped and transmitted as heritage through the education system. The product of cultural capital accumulation is taste, which creates differentiation and serves as a tool for maintaining social class distinctions. Griswold (2004), a scholar in sociology and cultural studies, further explains

Bourdieu's concept of cultural capital, suggesting that culture can be seen as a type of capital that can be accumulated and invested as economic capital. Cultural capital influences perceptions of cultural taste and lifestyles, being seen as a form of capital that contributes to the perception of power and influence in society. Additionally, Throsby (2001) defines cultural capital as embedded assets that accumulate and provide value in culture beyond economic value.

Cultural capital, according to Bourdieu (1986), comprises three types: (1) Intangible elements deeply embedded within individuals and communities over time, including ideas, imagination, creativity, and beliefs; (2) Material objects in the form of cultural artifacts such as images, books, and world heritage sites; and (3) Institutional aspects like rules, widely accepted norms, such as those observed in institutions like temples and schools. Throsby (2001) further categorizes cultural capital into two types, aligning with the classification of cultural heritage by UNESCO: (1) Tangible cultural heritage, which includes movable cultural assets like paintings, sculptures, coins, and immovable cultural assets like monuments, archaeological sites, and underwater cultural heritage; and (2) Intangible cultural heritage, including oral traditions, performing arts, rituals, and ceremonies.

In classifying cultural heritage information, the museum information framework can be applied, dividing it into three types: (1) Collections Information, comprising comprehensive data related to cultural heritage, including museum artifacts, archival documents, and rare books; (2) Technical Information, encompassing technical activities associated with cultural heritage, such as conservation, exhibition planning, and research; and (3) Business Information, containing administrative details of cultural heritage institutions responsible for object curation and management, including policies, project activities, visitor statistics, financials, personnel management, donor information, advisory boards, and communications with other organizations (Chaichuay, 2017).

Research on the importance of cultural capital for local development emphasizes its significance in several key areas. In education, cultural capital helps form knowledge, develop local wisdom curricula, and integrate cultural elements into teaching and community activities. It also supports the creation of learning centers, exhibitions, and the dissemination of local traditions and lifestyles (Boonkobkaew, 2019; Dangsakul et al., 2021; Prasansaktavee et al., 2017). For community engagement, festivals, rituals, and agricultural activities foster participation, promote tourism, and support local goods and services (Boonkobkaew, 2019; Hunpadungrat, 2021; Phompkum et al., 2023). Cultural conservation is another crucial aspect, as communities work together to preserve traditions, adapting them to tourism activities while effectively managing and sharing cultural capital data (Boonkobkaew, 2019; Khatiyachan et al., 2020). Lastly, cultural capital drives creativity, product creation, and cultural tourism, contributing to local income generation (Boonkobkaew, 2019; Hunpadungrat, 2021; Phompkum et al., 2023; Yampochai, 2022; Srithon & Tularak, 2021).

Numerous studies emphasize the crucial role of cultural capital in educational achievement, identifying it as a key factor in promoting equitable outcomes by helping students from diverse backgrounds succeed (Jin et al., 2024). Cultural capital exists in three forms: objectified, such as home educational resources; embodied, including academic values and attitudes; and institutionalized, like parental educational attainment. Factors such as parental education, academic emphasis, shared reading, and discussions positively impact student success (Tan et al., 2019). Additionally, cultural capital helps preserve local identity and shape community futures (Fedor, 2020). However, students in remote areas often face challenges due to limited

family and school roles in generating social and cultural capital. Governments should offer financial support for education and social capital development, and schools should invest in teacher and counselor training to enhance cultural capital (Juhaidi et al., 2024). Engagement in arts and culture also builds cultural capital, influencing behavior and policy, and justifying investment in cultural consumption (Bille, 2024).

### **Local Administrative Organizations (LAOs)**

LAOs are state organizations established based on the principle of decentralization, whereby the state delegates some governing power to LAOs to provide public services, respond to the needs, or solve the problems of local residents. LAOs are given personnel, budgets, and the authority to manage various aspects of economic development, infrastructure development, public services, and social welfare under the supervision of the central government (Department of Local Administration, 2015). Currently, Thailand categorizes LAOs into four types: Provincial Administrative Organizations (PAOs), Town Municipalities, Sub-district Administrative Organizations, and specialized forms of local government (Department of Local Administration, 2015).

The Thai Constitution of 2007, Section 14, regarding local administration, stipulates that the state must grant autonomy to LAOs according to the principle of self-governance based on the will of the local residents. It promotes LAOs as the primary organizations in providing public services and participating in decision-making regarding local issues. LAOs are tasked with overseeing and providing public services, setting policies, managing public administration, personnel, finances, and treasury, and exercising their specific duties while considering provincial and national development. Furthermore, LAOs have responsibilities for preserving local arts, traditions, indigenous knowledge, or culture, as well as the right to manage education, training, and vocational training appropriately. They also have the authority to promote and preserve environmental quality (Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2550, 2007).

### **Cultural Information Management**

Cultural information management is a type of resource utilized by LAOs for cultural governance. As LAOs create or acquire cultural information through various means, it becomes necessary to manage this cultural information according to information management principles. Detlor (2010) conceptualizes information management as a systematic process comprising creation, acquisition, organization, storage, distribution, and utilization of information. The goal is to enable individuals and organizations to access, manage, and benefit from available information efficiently and effectively.

From the study of research on cultural information management in Thailand, published in both journals and conference proceedings, it is found that the majority of research focuses on applying knowledge organization concepts to manage cultural knowledge. Examples include: Development of metadata for storing and describing cultural knowledge, such as the development of metadata for inscriptions, manuscripts, folk tales, and mural paintings (Chaichuay et al., 2012; Manmart et al., 2012; Kwiecien et al., 2021; Hoaihongthong & Kwiecien, 2022); Development of vocabularies in various formats to structure knowledge for system development and information retrieval purposes, such as indexes of folk tales and traditional music technology (Tuamsuk et al., 2016; Tuamsuk & Kaewboonma, 2018); Development of platforms or knowledge management systems in museum-like formats and open web formats, such as virtual museums and semantic web platforms for traditional customs

(Suebchompu & Tuamsuk, 2016; Chansanam et al., 2020). Similar research patterns are found internationally, such as Pandey and Kumar (2023) surveying metadata components used for digital art objects in Indian museum collections, and Diaz-Mendoza et al. (2023) developing a technology model for managing knowledge of traditional Spanish music (Vallenato). Additionally, there are studies on developing HBIM-GIS platforms for conserving cultural heritage in ancient buildings located in northern Italy and Switzerland (Matrone et al., 2022), as well as research on developing virtual reality technology for storing collections of Renaissance artworks in museums (Robertoa et al., 2023).

Research on cultural information management reflects efforts to develop tools and systems for collecting, storing, accessing, and disseminating cultural heritage, especially digital information and knowledge, using modern technologies. The researched cultural capital includes tangible heritage like buildings, monuments, and artifacts, as well as intangible heritage like folk tales, traditional music, and various artworks. These endeavors aim to conserve cultural heritage, facilitate learning, and potentially contribute to developments in other areas. However, research on the contextualization of local organizations linking to cultural information management, as published and disseminated, remains unclear.

### **Sustainable Development and Cultural Capital Management**

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations are related to cultural dimensions both directly and indirectly, acting as supportive factors for sustainable development. For example, SDG 4.7 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. SDG 8.9 focuses on promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all, including policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products. Additionally, SDG 11.4 aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, enhancing efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. (Petti et al., 2020; Xiao et al., 2018).

In Thailand, sustainable development efforts related to cultural management are driven by various government agencies and networks, including the Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with state agencies and stakeholders such as the National Economic and Social Development Office, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Interior, and the National Economic and Social Development Board. They drive sustainable development goals, particularly in the area of creating safe and inclusive cities and human settlements (SDG 11), specifically targeting the protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage globally (SDG 11.4). These efforts are integrated into national strategies outlined in the Tourism Strategy (Strategic Issue 5) and the Transformation of Values and Culture Strategy (Strategic Issue 10), aligning with cultural reform initiatives under the Cultural, Sports, Labor, and Human Resource Development Reform Plan, aiming to lead Thailand towards sustainable development success. The approach emphasizes inclusivity and cooperation across all sectors and dimensions (Ministry of Culture, 2023b). Furthermore, the cultural dimensions contribute to societal aspects such as reducing inequality, preserving the environment, promoting gender equality, and fostering peace and happiness in society (Hosagrahar, 2023).

Therefore, it can be seen that driving sustainable development goals through cultural dimensions will result in various benefits as follows: Education - Ensuring that all learners acquire the

necessary knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development, including education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity, with culture playing a part in fostering sustainable development by 2030; Conservation - Including the preservation of community-based knowledge, standardized data management, and the potential widespread use of stored knowledge; and Participation - Communities are involved in providing information, and the data obtained directly from communities differentiate it from other sources, fostering local pride.

### Research Conceptual Framework

The study on the cultural capital information management in the context of the LAOs for promoting sustainable development utilizes qualitative research methods. Researchers have established a research framework based on concepts, theories, and related research, including (1) local cultural capital, (2) local government organizations, (3) cultural capital information management, and (4) sustainable development related to cultural heritage management, as illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Research conceptual framework.

### Research Methodology

This study is part of research on community information systems for cultural capital information management. It aims to gather information about the context of the LAOs related to cultural capital management linked to sustainable development. A qualitative research method was employed to obtain data from individuals involved in managing and practicing cultural aspects of the community in real-life environments. Details of the research approach are shown in Table 1.



<b>Research Objective</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>Unit of analysis</b>	<b>Key informants</b>	<b>Data collection</b>	<b>Data analysis</b>
To study cultural capital information management to promote sustainable development within the scope of the Local Administration Organizations (LAOs)' roles and responsibilities	Qualitative research (Phenomenology)	Organizational level	15 executives and practitioners for cultural information management from local government organizations	In-depth interview, with interview guidelines	Content Analysis

Table 1. Details of the research approach.

### **Selection of Study Area and Informants**

The phenomenological research approach was employed to understand the context of cultural capital management in the studied area, specifically Roi Et Province, Thailand because it is historically significant with ancient communities deeply rooted in cultural heritage. Roi Et possesses diverse cultural resources, both tangible and intangible, as classified by UNESCO into two categories: tangible heritage such as archaeological sites, monuments, ancient artifacts, and intangible heritage like customs, rituals, performing arts, etc. Additionally, both government and private sectors in the province emphasize cultural promotion activities. The Roi Et Provincial Development Plan (2023-2027) aims to develop the province over the 5-year period with the objectives of fostering agricultural innovation, creating innovative tourism, enhancing cultural value, and promoting sustainable social development. This plan focuses on enhancing competitiveness in trade, investment, service, and tourism sectors through the promotion of new tourism activities, development of key tourist attractions, standardization of community-based tourism, and elevation of local culture to contribute to economic value (Strategic Planning and Data for Provincial Development, Roi Et Province, 2023).

The research analysis unit is an organizational level, which includes LAOs engaged in cultural missions, such as Provincial Administrative Organizations (PAO), town municipalities, and sub-district administrative organizations. The researchers selected a specific the target organizations based on criteria: (1) Organizations with only one agency per province, including municipalities and PAOs, totaling two agencies, and (2) Sub-district-level organizations with outstanding cultural resources both tangible and intangible, widely recognized, totaling three each, making six in total.



Based on Nastasi and Schensul (2005), the valid sample size for in-depth interviews can range from 5 to 30 individuals, depending on the nature and depth of the data required. In this research, the 16 key informants were selected which included two cultural administrators and practitioners responsible for cultural information management in 8 LAOs. However, 15 individuals participated, with one organization providing only one interviewee.

### **Research Questions Defining**

According to Dixon et al. (1987), not all research requires hypotheses as the best indicators. Some research aims to explore what happens without pre-determined variable relationships. Defining research questions can be a useful method for narrowing the scope of a research project. Furthermore, research questions in qualitative studies help create a systematic framework for data analysis, focusing on exploring answers rather than testing hypotheses (Chantani, 2022; Punpinit, 2010, 58). Therefore, this research has defined the research questions as follows:

*RQ1: What are the roles and responsibilities of local administrative organizations concerning cultural capital?*

*RQ2: What knowledge about cultural capital do local administrative organizations possess that could be developed into valuable information for sustainable development?*

*RQ3: What is the current state of cultural capital information management within local administrative organizations?*

### **Data Collection and Analysis**

The research utilized interview guidelines as its primary data collection tool. This included the development of interview questions related to cultural management, such as concepts of cultural administration, policies or plans in use, budgets, personnel, activities or projects, and challenges in management, as well as information management in the context of cultural administration. Data collection was carried out through in-depth interviews of individual informants from February to May 2023, spanning a total of four months. Examples of interview questions are as follows:

- *What are your views on cultural management in the area you are responsible for?*
- *What are the significant cultural assets in the area under your responsibility?*
- *What types of cultural capital information are used and prioritized?*
- *What is the current state of cultural capital information management in the area you oversee?*

The data obtained from the interviews was documented in the form of interview transcripts. These transcripts were then coded by the researcher, who assigned codes into significant phrases, sentences, or paragraphs. This coding process facilitates the retrieval and organization of data, making it easier to locate information relevant to the research questions. Data coding involved the creation of preliminary codes based on theoretical frameworks, codes refinement and grouping, and relationship identification. For example, a summary of key topics in 'Cultural Management' within the municipality might include the municipality's duties, management of activities, and collaborations with the cultural council, as shown in Table 2.

<b>Data recording</b>	<b>Code refinement and grouping</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Key terms/concepts</b>
<i>"Yes, in our case, the municipality is responsible for promoting and supporting activities related to 'promoting traditions, arts, and culture.' Our municipality organizes educational and cultural promotion activities, with one person serving as the head of the project and another as the assistant. The management works in collaboration with the Cultural Council of Kookasing District to oversee the 'Kookasing Heritage Wisdom Museum,' which serves as a repository for the traditional tools and implements used by the people of Kookasing."</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Duties of the municipality</li> <li>- Management of activities</li> <li>- Collaborations with the cultural council</li> </ul>	is part of	Cultural management

Table 2. Example of data recording and coding

Two data analysis methods were employed: Descriptive analysis was used to summarize and describe the basic characteristics of the data, creating a clear overview of the data's attributes and specific features obtained from the research; and Content analysis was used for in-depth analysis and interpretation of the data by categorizing and examining the meaning of the content to derive significant findings and conclusions that were useful. The results of the data analysis are presented in tabular form to systematically display the important data and findings.

## Research Results

The participants in this research are managers and cultural affairs practitioners working in the LAOs, totaling 15 individuals from 8 organizations. There are 7 male and 8 female participants, with ages ranging from 40 to 60 years old. Most of them have over 10 years of experience working in cultural-related fields. In terms of job positions, they include 1 deputy mayor, 5 education department directors, 2 department heads, 4 educational officers, 1 tourism development officer, 1 administrative assistant, and 1 local administrator.

The qualitative data analysis obtained from interviews regarding the context of LAOs related to cultural capital information management for sustainable development is presented by dividing into three main points: (1) The roles and responsibilities of LAOs in cultural capital; (2) Cultural capital information management by the LAOs; and (3) Cultural capital information management and sustainable development.

### The Roles and Responsibilities of Laos in Cultural Capital.

LAOs have legal responsibilities in providing public services, including duties in preserving and promoting local arts, cultural traditions, indigenous wisdom, or beautiful local cultures. They

also have the right to manage education, training, and vocational training appropriately according to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2550, Section 14, concerning local administration. Upon analysis based on the duties of local government organizations, it is found that:

- (1) The roles and responsibilities of LAOs in the cultural sector conform to the regulations and laws binding their missions.
- (2) Cultural management and administration are conducted in accordance with local development plans, strategic development plans, and annual operational plans, using municipal ordinances as the primary framework, expanded into operational plans. In the process of creating operational plans each year, community involvement is ensured through community leaders, cultural councils, government agencies, educational institutions, as well as private entities in the area.
- (3) Cultural management executives at the department/section level: Based on interviews, it was found that each unit assigns cultural affairs as the responsibility of the education department or the education and cultural affairs section. Positions such as directors, heads of sections, or heads of departments are responsible individuals with expertise and competence primarily in education. Cultural work requires self-learning and information assimilation from past years' administrative work.
- (4) Budgets allocated for cultural management range from 100,000 to 1,000,000 Thai baht, depending on the nature of the operations. These include provincial-level annual cultural festivals such as Boon Pra Wet, district-level annual cultural festivals like Boon Khoon Lan and Boon Bang Fai, as well as unique sub-district-level annual cultural festivals in different areas, for instance, Songkoo festivities. Additionally, considerations are made based on the necessity to organize activities each year and to enhance the scale of annual cultural festivals according to the policies of the management in each respective year.
- (5) Personnel responsible for cultural affairs in LAOs primarily consist of education specialists, totaling 7 units, with only one unit assigned to a tourism specialist. These personnel handle cultural management as part of their regular or core duties, often in conjunction with educational management. The nature of cultural work involves collaborative efforts with community cultural councils.
- (6) The process of cultural affairs management involves implementing activities in the form of projects/sub-activities that municipalities and SAOs can execute independently. Primarily, these activities consist of religious-related annual festivals and the 12-month cultural festivals or rituals. The process includes planning, public relations, project/activity implementation, and evaluation. Furthermore, joint projects/activities with provinces and districts are organized. Other activities or rituals can involve community or private sector participation. Community involvement is part of activity organization. Upon completion, projects or activities are evaluated by the community and relevant organizations.
- (7) As for the provincial administrative organizations (PAOs), which are not responsible for local-level activities but can provide financial support, the conditions specify that the budget support must align with activities announced by the province. Municipalities and SAOs are tasked with proposing outstanding area activities to the province through official documents for consideration and approval. Subsequently, the PAOs incorporate them into operational plans to request budget allocations according to budget management regulations.

(8) Challenges and obstacles in cultural affairs management predominantly revolve around the lack of cultural capital experts who can provide accurate and reliable information. Management at the department/section level mainly relies on individual experiences and self-learning, as most are education specialists without specific training in cultural development. Additionally, outdated information is often used for ongoing and adapted projects/activities from previous years. The majority of cultural management practices rely on outdated information and non-standardized information storage systems, lacking personnel responsible for cultural information. As a result, promoting the value of cultural capital and disseminating it for practical use become challenging.

### **Cultural Capital Information Management by the LAOs**

Management of cultural capital information by LAOs divided into two parts: (1) Local cultural capitals; and (2) Cultural capital information management process.

(1) ***Local cultural capitals*** found in the studied LAOs is categorized as follows:

- **Intangible cultural capital** consists of: (1) Knowledge of local customs, traditions, and various cultural expressions including folklore, performing arts, social practices, rituals, and festivals. It includes three types: folk tales, performing arts, and social practices and ceremonies; (2) Knowledge and practices related to nature and the universe, including food and nutrition, traditional medicine, and traditional craftsmanship. It comprises three types: food and nutrition, Thai traditional medicine, and traditional craftsmanship; and (3) Traditional craftsmanship, including fabric and textile products, weaving, and stone carving.

- **Tangible cultural capital** found in the studied LAOs consists of 2 formats: (1) Movable tangible cultural capital includes paintings, murals, wall paintings, ancient coins, original manuscripts, and antiquities; and (2) Immovable tangible cultural capital includes monuments, groups of buildings, and archaeological sites.

- **Cultural capital information** found in the studied LAOs consists of 3 types: (1) Cumulative information includes museum artifacts and manuscripts; (2) Technical information includes databases of local cultural capital and indigenous knowledge; and (3) Management information includes cultural capital-related policies such as ordinances, municipal regulations, announcements, activities, projects, budget management, personnel development, coordination with various agencies, and cultural cooperation networks.

(2) ***Cultural capital information management process***. The process of managing cultural capital information within the LAOs reveals four main processes, as shown in Table 3.

- **Information Acquisition:** This involves sourcing information from various channels such as the internet, databases, books, documents from the Department of Fine Arts, or provincial cultural offices. It also includes planning meetings with community leaders for event planning, such as annual festival schedules or other local activities. Additionally, it entails collecting data firsthand and conducting interviews with knowledgeable individuals. Collaboration with relevant agencies is sought to obtain accurate information.

- **Information Storage:** Information is stored as digital files on computers (for staff members), followed by filing documents. Storage formats also include websites, online social media, and databases.

- **Information Organization:** While most reports and files are prepared, there's a lack of systematic organization. However, some efforts are made to categorize information into reports, files, and occasionally, systematic classification.

- **Information Service:** Primarily involves document preparation, such as brochures and travel guides for services. Additionally, it includes lectures, site visits, publicity through Facebook, training sessions, and coordination with relevant organizations for information retrieval. The recipients of cultural information services within the context of the LAOs are primarily teachers, students, scholars, followed by the general public, and government and private organizations.

Cultural capital information management processes		Cases (Total 8)								Count
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
Acquisition	1. Acquire/gather information by themselves.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			5
	2. Inquire and interview with knowledgeable individuals.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			5
	3. Search from various data sources, i.e. the internet, databases, books, official documents of the related government offices.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
	4. Conduct meetings with community leaders for activities planning.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
	5. Request cooperation from relevant organizations.							✓		1
Storage	1. Store as document files in printed form.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		6
	2. Store as document files on computers.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
	3. Store in the databases.	✓			✓					2
	4. Store in the form of websites and online social media.	✓		✓		✓	✓			4
Organization	1. Organize as reports and data files, but there is no information system.	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	6
	2. Organize as reports and data files using information system.			✓	✓			✓		3
Services	<b>Service Methods</b>									
	1. Lectures, talks	✓	✓			✓				3
	2. Site tours	✓	✓							2
	3. Document publications		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6
	4. Public relations via Facebook				✓				✓	2
	5. Training				✓		✓			2
	6. On information request								✓	1
	<b>Service Recipients</b>									

Cultural capital information management processes	Cases (Total 8)								Count
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
1. Government offices	✓								1
2. Private organizations, e.g. Beauty pageant organizers	✓								1
3. Teachers, students, scholars, researchers	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
4. General people	✓		✓	✓				✓	4

Table 3. Cultural capital information management process of the LAOs

### **Cultural Capital Information Management and Sustainable Development.**

From the study, it was found that the information management of cultural capital at the local level supports sustainable development in education and learning, community engagement, and cultural heritage conservation as shown in Table 4.

#### **(1) Education and Learning.**

- The collection of cultural capital knowledge from diverse sources is valuable for the education and learning of future generations.
- Knowledge collection serves as the establishment of learning resources related to local cultural heritage.
- Systematic cultural heritage knowledge management enables widespread and equitable access for the public.
- The dissemination of local cultural heritage knowledge comes in various forms such as documents, online media, and training sessions. It fosters awareness and may lead to the creation of educational media in different formats and promotion of lifelong learning.

#### **(2) Community Engagement.**

- Conducting discussions and knowledge exchange meetings regarding local cultural capitals fosters a sense of shared knowledge and appreciation among the public.
- Collaborating with relevant local organizations enhances the development of management networks, promoting their strength and sustainability.
- Information gathering enables communities and related organizations to have data for various developmental purposes.
- Developing standardized information systems for managing local cultural heritage assets facilitates cooperation in importing and managing data from communities and related organizations conveniently.
- Communities and relevant organizations can participate in providing services and disseminating cultural heritage information, potentially benefiting business development, tourism, and fostering other innovations.

**(3) Cultural Conservation.**

- Knowledge about local cultural capitals is gathered from various sources, allowing for comprehensive conservation management.
- Knowledge about cultural heritage assets is systematically stored and preserved.
- Knowledge about cultural heritage assets can be accessed in various formats, such as virtually, without the need to access and potentially damage the original artifacts.
- The dissemination of knowledge is a form of conservation through the transmission of wisdom to future generations and the public.

Information management process	Sustainability aspects of cultural capital information management		
	Education and learning (SDG 4.7)	Community engagement (SDG 11.4)	Cultural conservation (SDG 16.7)
Acquisition	The collection of cultural capital knowledge from diverse sources is valuable for the education and learning of future generations.	-Conducting discussions and knowledge exchange meetings regarding local cultural capitals fosters a sense of shared knowledge and appreciation among the public. -Collaborating with relevant local organizations enhances the development of management networks, promoting their strength and sustainability.	Knowledge about local cultural capitals is gathered from various sources, allowing for comprehensive conservation management.
Storage	Knowledge collection serves as the establishment of learning resources related to local cultural heritage.	Information gathering enables communities and related organizations to have data for various developmental purposes.	Knowledge about cultural heritage assets is systematically stored and preserved.
Organization	Systematic cultural heritage knowledge management enables widespread and equitable access for the public.	Developing standardized information systems for managing local cultural heritage assets facilitates cooperation in importing and managing data from communities and related organizations conveniently.	Knowledge about cultural heritage assets can be accessed in various formats, such as virtually, without the need to access and potentially damage the original artifacts.



Information management process	Sustainability aspects of cultural capital information management		
	Education and learning (SDG 4.7)	Community engagement (SDG 11.4)	Cultural conservation (SDG 16.7)
Services	The dissemination of local cultural heritage knowledge comes in various forms such as documents, online media, and training sessions. It fosters awareness and may lead to the creation of educational media in different formats and promotion of lifelong learning.	Communities and relevant organizations can participate in providing services and disseminating cultural heritage information, potentially benefiting business development, tourism, and fostering other innovations.	The dissemination of knowledge is a form of conservation through the transmission of wisdom to future generations and the public.

Table 4. Cultural capital information management and sustainable development

## Discussion

The objective of this research was to study the context of cultural capital information management within LAOs to promote sustainable development. The research findings indicate that LAOs have a significant cultural heritage mission that must be successfully executed. They establish departments responsible for cultural affairs within their organizational structure, tasked with coordinating cultural activities or projects with communities to foster local solidarity. Cultural capital information management is utilized for informational purposes in planning, project development, budget allocation, and sustainable development promotion in the local context, particularly in education, learning, community engagement, and cultural heritage conservation.

Regarding the management of cultural capital information by the organization, the researchers investigated three main points: (1) the local cultural capitals (2) the cultural capital information management process, and (3) the cultural capital information management for sustainable development. The local cultural capitals are found in all categories in line with Bourdieu (1986), as well as the classification of cultural heritage information types based on the museum information concept (Chaichuay, 2017). However, cultural capitals found in Roi Et Province may not be comprehensive according to UNESCO's standards due to geographical variations, such as the absence of underwater cultural heritage sites. In addition, other valuable cultural capitals, such as local traditions, indigenous medicine, are needed to be explored.

Cultural capital information management in Roi Et province, within the framework of the LAOs' work structure, policies, and operational methods, it was found that LAOs utilize information systems to carry out their tasks. These systems include databases that store general information, infrastructure and public utility data, economic data, social data, public health data, disaster prevention and relief data, environmental data, financial and treasury data, and other relevant information. Cultural capital information is part of subcategories within various data domains; for example, community heritage data falls under social data. However, the collected data are basic and lack significant details, and the categorization of cultural capital data is not

standardized. In the future, to enhance the efficiency of cultural capital information management, LAOs should choose development approaches that align with existing systems, such as developing community information systems for sustainable cultural management. Based on relevant literature review, three management approaches for cultural information can be applied: (1) metadata-driven development, (2) semantic technology and web-based system, and (3) information systems (Robertoa et al., 2023; Diaz-Mendoza et al., 2023; Matrone et al., 2012; Pandey & Kumar, 2023).

Managing cultural capital information plays a crucial role in supporting sustainable development through the preservation of cultural heritage, promotion of cultural tourism, community empowerment, education, policy making, and fostering social cohesion (Kausar, 2012). This study found that Local Administrative Organizations (LAOs) manage cultural capital information in three key areas: education and learning, community engagement, and cultural heritage conservation. These findings align with Messenger and Smith's (2015) assertion that cultural heritage management and sustainability are deeply interconnected, influencing areas like cultural identity preservation, environmental conservation, social and economic development, and community empowerment. Fedor (2020) further emphasizes that cultural capital helps preserve local identity, allowing communities to shape their future, while Nuryanti (2006) highlights the importance of involving local communities in managing and conserving cultural heritage, as they are its true custodians. Additionally, Bille's (2024) research points out that individual engagement in the arts and culture helps accumulate cultural capital, impacting behavior, decision-making, and policy, thus promoting investment in cultural initiatives.

Another key role of managing cultural capital in relation to sustainable development in the studied area is the use of cultural resources to promote education and learning within the community. This includes raising awareness among community members about their cultural heritage and integrating significant cultural elements into school curricula. Such initiatives empower students to apply this knowledge toward future career development and income generation, such as by developing community tourism, becoming community guides, or enhancing local products for sale. This aligns with Jin et al. (2024), who emphasize that cultural capital is a key factor in achieving success, as recognizing and utilizing its diverse impacts can lead to more equitable educational development.

Local governing bodies play a crucial role in disseminating cultural heritage knowledge through documents, online media, and training sessions. These efforts not only promote awareness but also support the creation of educational materials in various formats and foster lifelong learning. This is consistent with Tan's (2019) findings, which suggest that cultural capital's contribution to education can manifest in the form of resources, values, attitudes, and parental educational levels.

In remote communities, such as indigenous groups, students may face educational challenges due to the limited involvement of families and schools in building social and cultural capital. Juhaidi et al. (2024) recommend that governments introduce policies that provide additional financial support for education and the development of social and cultural capital in these communities.

### **Limitations and Recommendations**

The study on cultural capital management for sustainable development has limitations. It was conducted with a sample group of executives and practitioners in cultural management from

local government organizations in Roi Et Province, Thailand, so the findings cannot be generalized to all local governments in Thailand. Future research should expand the sample size and explore cultural capital management in diverse contexts, considering differences in culture, beliefs, religion, and geography. Additionally, there should be an assessment to determine which types of cultural capital are essential for sustainable development to guide future planning and promotion.

Recommendations for the cultural information management at the local level are:

- Information management systems should be developed, incorporating modern technology as tools for managing information suitable for the context of usage.
- LAOs or government agencies using cultural heritage data should establish clear policies related to cultural capital information management.
- LAOs should promote and develop the skills of personnel in managing cultural capital information, including investing in modern technology for information management.
- Collaboration networks should be established with relevant organizations in cultural capital management to facilitate future data sharing and usage for mutual benefits.

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